

Worcester Aug 30 1859

Friend May

As my term of service
as Agent of the Am. A. S. Society is
now complete, I have made
the enclosed Mem.^o of account
which if correct, the balance
may be sent me by check, as
usual,

I have received your notice
of the unprecedented action of
the Committee, in cutting
off my head without assigning
any incapacity, inefficiency, or
misconduct as an Agent, —
closing my Agency without
assigning or intimating any
misconduct as an Agent.

I shall have a word to say
to the Committee, before long,
upon this. as well as

- In a reply to this, dated Aug 31/59, I considered the following points —
1. His charge of "unprecedented" course. I denied this, as contrary to facts; ^{agents sometimes dismissed much more abruptly.}
 2. His charge of summary dismissal. — Note to — really had 3 months' notice; as he w^d recollect.
 3. That agents can be dismissed only for "inefficiency, inefficiency, or misdeemeanor". — I spoke of "want of funds" as a reason ^{often occurring} I referred to the reasons which operated in D. Foster's case; in S.S. Foster's case; & then in his case, 1. (Standard letter) and 2. (Misrepresentation of Garrison)
 4. His distinction of "as an agent" & "not as an agent". Referred to our endeavours to get from him an explanation of what he had done, while acting as our Agent.

And in reply to last paragraph, I said: — "I think this request ^{respond to} ~~is not~~ an "extraordinary" one. I must say, and one which we are not bound to ~~consider~~ ^{respond to}. I am ^{quite} sure I mentioned to you that, in a very full meeting, the vote was unanimous. I have no doubt that every Member of the Com^{tee}, however, would say, — Give the list of those present. I therefore do so, from memory, — W. L. Garrison, F. Jackson, E. Quincy, M. W. Chapman, E. L. Follen, W. Phillips, C. K. Whipple, & S. May Jr — besides ~~other~~ members of the Mass^{ts} Board of Managers (present by courtesy, but not voting.) The other question I cannot recognize your right to put to me; but I think the Com^{tee} are alike, as to responsibility for the vote."

upon the 'Star Chamber' method
by which they have so sum-
marily sentenced and executed
me without hearing or trial!
but whether of appeal, remon-
strance or protest. I can hardly
decide now.

Meanwhile I would like to
know. What members of
the Committee were present
and voted for this extraor-
dinary motion, as well as
who suggested or moved
it and who seconded it

Yours truly
Joseph A. Howard

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 7, p. 60